

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **SENATE CLOSED CAPTIONING**

**CLOSED CAPTIONING ANOTHER BREAKTHROUGH  
FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES;  
SENATE BECOMING WORLD'S MOST ACCESSIBLE LEGISLATIVE BODY**

One year ago Congress joined with President Bush to enact the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, a sweeping reform package that guarantees persons with disabilities access to the mainstream of American society.

Today, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in celebrating another breakthrough for Americans with disabilities -- closed captioning of the proceedings of the United States Senate.

Beginning today, a significant, but for-too-long forgotten segment of American society will now have the immediate capability to follow action in what historians call "the world's greatest deliberative body."

Hard to believe now, but as recently as 1984, television and radio coverage Senate action did not exist. With the advent of gavel-to-gavel Senate television coverage, vast numbers of Americans have kept watch on their elected officials. Today, we have taken the next logical step -- by beginning closed captioning, this body's proceedings will be available, with the use of a closed captioning decoder, to the more than 23 million Americans who are hearing impaired, including the two million Americans who are profoundly deaf.

Closed captioning also brings additional advantages -- implementation of this innovative technology will also open new doors for those with learning disabilities, and those using English as a second language.

Studies have shown that captioning improves the vocabulary and comprehension of remedial readers. Additionally, those working with illiterate adults have found that captioning is effective in motivating adults to learn reading skills.

I am proud to have sponsored both the Americans with Disabilities Act and Senate Resolution 13, which called for closed captioning of Senate proceedings. I know all my colleagues join me and Senator Mitchell today in recognizing this milestone, which removes another barrier to fulfilling the promise of the ADA.

By opening this important window on our democratic process, we are taking action to ensure that the "world's greatest deliberative body" is also the world's most accessible legislative body.

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